

quotas for export of onion for the next crop year would be announced in advance and periodic quotas would be released based on harvest/market arrivals and flush/lean season availability. Government's export policy for onion will benefit both the growers as well as the businessmen safeguarding consumer requirements.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Suicide by Tobacco farmers

-6. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco farmers are committing suicide as STC did not purchase the produce from the farmers of Andhra Pradesh in Veerulapadu Mandal;

(b) if so, the reasons for not lifting the stocks by STC; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure that farmers are given time to repay loans in view of hardships faced by them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN:): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Banks have been advised not to recover crop loan advances from the tobacco farmers sales of the first two lots put for sale at the auctions.

Strategic partnership treaty signed between India and EU

7. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and European Union have signed a strategic partnership treaty mainly covering economy and trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the treaty would promote the Indian interests in